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 THE ALOE APHID, *ALOEPHAGUS MYERSI* ESSIG

(Homoptera)

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The apterous form of this very interesting introduced aphid was described in the Pan-Pacific Entomologist, Vol. XXVI, No. 1, pp. 22-24, Figs. 1-2, 1950. At the time the original specimens were collected no alate individuals were available. Fortunately, Mr. L. E. Myers, for whom the species was named, recently sent me a considerable number of both alate and winged forms collected on *Aloe* at La Cañada, Los Angeles County, California on February 8, 1951 by W. D. Dyer. A description of the alate forms and an illustration of the same follow.

Alate viviparous parthenogenetic female (fig. 1). Color mostly black excepting the abdomen which is dull greenish with black markings as shown

in the drawing. Short rounded tubercles occur on the head, prothorax and abdomen. A series of wax glands are arranged in transverse groups on the dorsum of the metathorax and the three basal abdominal segments. Small hairs and setae are also present. Antenna 5-segmented with large irregular secondary dorsal sensoria on segments III and IV. These sensoria may be separated or fused. A single large sensorium on IV, as shown, is the rule but it may be divided (in one case) or there may be a large one and a very small one basad (one example). Lengths of segments: III, 0.11 mm.; IV, 0.70 mm.; V, 0.15 mm. The unguis about one-third the length of the base (this also holds for the apterous form in the original description which was erroneously indicated as being twice as long as the base.) Compound eyes and ocelli well developed. The rostrum long and slender and extending beyond the middle of the abdomen, the apical segments only slightly wider than the stem. Prothorax with 4 basal tubercles. Wings with veins and stigma black; venation as illustrated. Abdomen with many lateral and dorsal tubercles and with transverse glandular and pigmented bands. Cauda triangular with many short, curved spine-like hairs. Cornicles absent. Length of body 2.30 mm.; length of forewing 2.97 mm. (Length of apterae 2.20 mm.)

The collection consists of 16 alate and 18 immature and mature apterous forms. The alates are designated as plesiotypes (specimens figured or described as examples of an already named species).

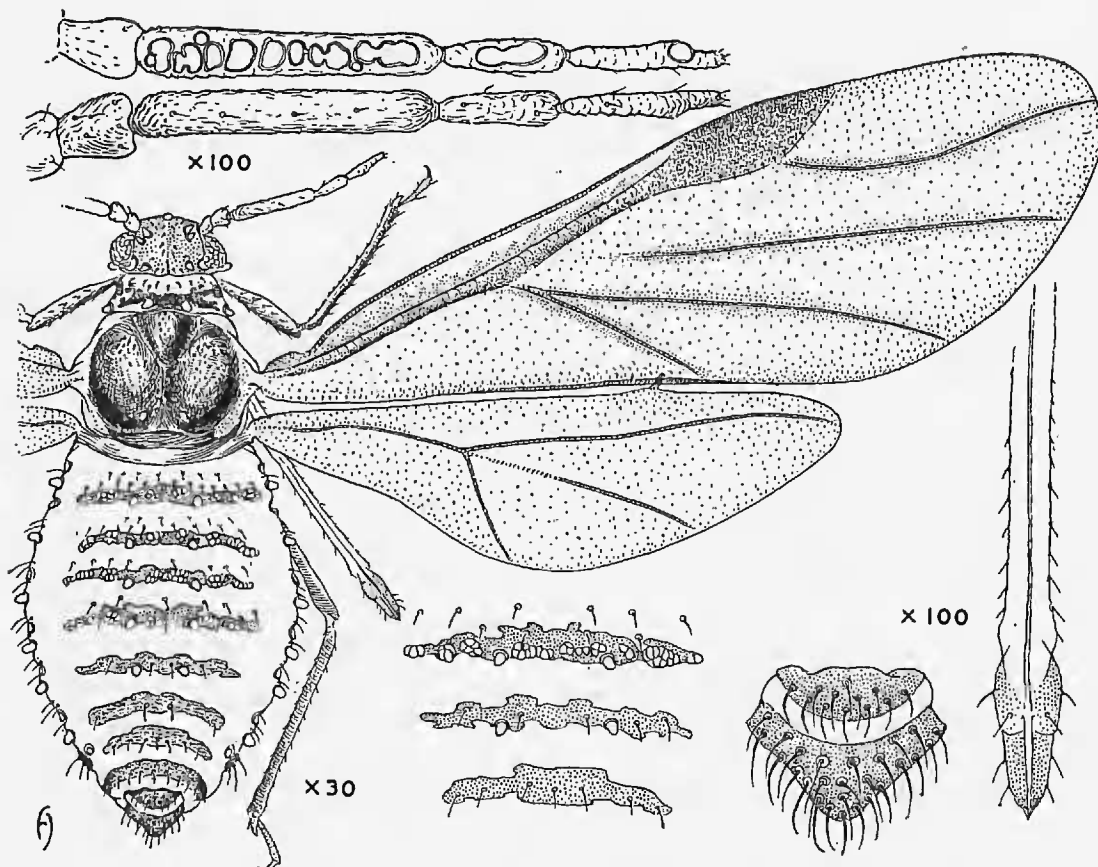


Fig. 1. *Aloephagus myersi* Essig. Alate form (plesiotype) with greatly enlarged antenna, showing dorsal and ventral surfaces; abdominal pigmented, tubercular and glandular areas; anal plate and cauda (ventral aspect); and apical portion of rostrum. (Drawing by Frieda Abernathy).